next to an impoſſibility to miſs the ball. As this game was played formerly, it required ſome dexterity; but the manner in which *gentlemen* play it at preſent, is a diſgrace to *boys*; and on this account I was in doubt whether I ſhould admit it among the games in my Juvenile Sports and Paſtimes.

CHAP. IX.

Obſervations on the Game of Cricket.

OF all the games which afford amuſement for the leiſure hours of boys as well as gentlemen, there are none more manly than that of cricket, as it procures an appetite, health, and vigour. This game has undergone ſuch few variations, that I cannot make many obſervations thereon, and ſhall therefore only obſerve, that the new mode of taking the advantage of bye-balls and overthrows, and thereby gaining as many knotches as poſſible, is an innovation with which I am by no means pleaſed. It is indeed true, that this puts the ſeekers-out continually on their guard, and obliges them to be more mindful of their play; but then it diminiſhes

niſhes the credit of the player, in whoſe hands the bat is, as a game may be won by a very bad batſman, owing to the inability of the wicket-man, or the inattention of the ſeekers-out. Do you not, my little pupils, long to be among theſe little fellows who are ſo hard at it?

Permit me now to give a word or two of advice to the younger part of my pupils, who may not perhaps be yet perfect maſters of this noble diverſion. And, firſt, I will ſpeak of the bat.

Every little ſportſman is fond of having the upper part of his bat bound round